

U.S. NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (CLOSED)

15APR92

INDECENT ASSAULT (I)

CONTROL: 11OCT91-20PX-0189-8DNA/F

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

COMMAND/SECNAV/31698

MADE AT/20HQ/NISNCR ARLINGTON, VA. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT

CASE SUMMARY

1. THIS INVESTIGATION WAS INITIATED ON 11OCT91 AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AFTER (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) AUTHORED A LETTER TO THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, AIR WARFARE WHEREIN SHE REPORTED THAT SHE HAD BEEN PHYSICALLY AND INDECENTLY ASSAULTED ON 07SEP91 BY A GROUP OF NAVAL OFFICERS WHILE ATTENDING THE 1991 TAILHOOK SYMPOSIUM

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

USMC

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AT THE LAS VEGAS HILTON. DURING THE COURSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION, AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN FEMALE NAVAL OFFICERS AND SIX CIVILIAN FEMALES REPORTED THAT THEY WERE PHYSICALLY AND INDECENTLY ASSAULTED WHILE ATTENDING 1991 TAILHOOK. TEN OF THE VICTIMS SAID THEY WERE ASSAULTED ON 07SEP91 BY MALES THEY BELIEVED TO BE NAVY OR MARINE CORPS AVIATORS. THREE VICTIMS REPORTED THAT THEY WERE BITTEN ON THE EVENING OF 05SEP91 WHILE ON THE THIRD FLOOR, BY MEN THEY BELIEVED TO BE BRITISH OR AUSTRALIAN OFFICERS. ANOTHER SIX MILITARY AND SIX CIVILIAN FEMALES WERE IDENTIFIED AS THE ALLEGED VICTIMS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF ASSAULTS RANGING FROM BEING GRABBED ON THE BUTTOCKS TO RAPE. THE ALLEGATION OF RAPE WAS DETERMINED TO BE UNFOUNDED, AND THE REMAINDER OF VICTIMS WERE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO IDENTIFY THEIR ASSAILANTS. THE MAJORITY OF THE REPORTED INCIDENTS OF CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT TOOK PLACE IN THE THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY OF THE HILTON HOTEL WHERE A NUMBER OF SQUADRONS HAD SET UP HOSPITALITY SUITES FOR TAILHOOK ATTENDEES. ACCORDING TO THE VICTIMS, THE HALLWAY WAS EXTREMELY CROWDED WITH MALES THAT APPEARED TO BE U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEMBERS WHO WOULD TOUCH FEMALES INAPPROPRIATELY AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO PASS THEM IN THE HALLWAY. THIS GROUP OF MEN WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE "GAUNTLET", AN INFORMAL EVENT IN WHICH NAVAL AVIATORS LINE THE THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY AND INAPPROPRIATELY TOUCH SELECTIVE WOMEN AS THEY ATTEMPT TO PASS THROUGH THE AREA.

2. SINCE THE MAJORITY OF THE ASSAULTS REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE DURING THE EVENING HOURS OF 07SEP91, EXTENSIVE SCREENING INTERVIEWS OF TAILHOOK ATTENDEES WERE CONDUCTED TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS PRESENT IN THE THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY DURING THAT TIMEFRAME, AND TO DETERMINE THEIR ACTIONS. IN GENERAL, THOSE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PILOTS WHO SAID THEY WERE PRESENT ON THE THIRD FLOOR DURING THE CITED TIMEFRAME REPORTED THEY DID NOT WITNESS ANY OF THEIR FELLOW OFFICERS IMPROPERLY TOUCH FEMALES. THE FEW OFFICERS WHO STATED THEY WITNESSED MISCONDUCT IN THE THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY COULD NOT IDENTIFY ANY SUSPECTS. THREE NAVY PILOTS AND ONE MARINE CORPS PILOT ADMITTED TO PATTING AND TOUCHING FEMALES ON THE BUTTOCKS IN THE THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY; HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THESE OFFICERS, THE TOUCHING WAS NOT DONE AGAINST ANY FEMALE'S WILL, AND INVESTIGATION FAILED TO DISCLOSE ANY VICTIM WHO IDENTIFIED ANY OF THESE OFFICERS AS AN ASSAILANT. DURING INTERVIEWS, THE THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING CROWDED WITH NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PILOTS, MOST OF WHOM HAD BEEN DRINKING. THE GAUNTLET WAS FURTHER DESCRIBED AS BUMPING, PUSHING, TOUCHING, PINCHING, AND GRABBING WOMEN AS THEY WALKED THROUGH THE HALLWAY. SOME OF THOSE INTERVIEWED REPORTED THAT HAND AND VERBAL SIGNALS WERE USED TO IDENTIFY THOSE WOMEN DEEMED ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO BE SUBJECTED TO THE "GAUNTLET".

3. AS SOME OF THE VICTIMS INDICATED THAT THEY COULD IDENTIFY THEIR ASSAILANTS, PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN OF ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO STATED THAT THEY WERE PRESENT ON THE THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY DURING THE EVENING HOURS OF 07SEP91. ADDITIONALLY, PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN EXCHANGE PILOTS KNOWN TO HAVE ATTENDED 1991 TAILHOOK WERE OBTAINED. PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITH BOTH POSSIBLE WITNESSES AND VICTIMS WITH TWO POSITIVE IDENTIFICATIONS BEING MADE.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

IDENTIFIED (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) AS THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICER WHO BIT HER

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ON THE BUTTOCKS ON 05SEP91. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) IDENTIFIED (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) IN BOTH A PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION AND A PHYSICAL LINEUP AS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO INDECENTLY ASSAULTED HER FROM BEHIND WHILE PUSHING HER THROUGH THE GAUNTLET. BOTH SUSPECTS HAVE DENIED INVOLVEMENT IN ANY INDECENT ASSAULTS. EXHIBITS (1) AND (2) ARE PROSECUTIVE SUMMARIES WITH REGARD TO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) AND (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) DURING THE INVESTIGATION PERTAINING TO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) EVIDENCE WAS DEVELOPED INDICATING (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER, ATTEMPTED TO DIVERT THE INVESTIGATION AWAY FROM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) BY PROVIDING A FALSE OFFICIAL STATEMENT. EXHIBIT (3) IS A PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY WITH REGARD TO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SCREENING INTERVIEWS FURTHER DISCLOSED THAT (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT, SOLICITED INDIVIDUALS TO START A GAUNTLET. DETAILS ARE PROVIDED IN EXHIBIT (4), A PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY PERTAINING TO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

4. THE INVESTIGATION IDENTIFIED CERTAIN FIELD GRADE OFFICERS AS POSSIBLY HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF PERTINENCE TO THIS INVESTIGATION. UPON INTERVIEW, THESE OFFICERS SAID THEY HAD NO FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE INDECENT ASSAULTS, NOR KNOWLEDGE OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSAULTS. IT WAS DEEMED NECESSARY TO SUBSEQUENTLY INTERROGATE TWO OF THESE OFFICERS AS THERE WAS REASON TO BELIEVE THEY ATTEMPTED TO OBSTRUCT THIS INVESTIGATION. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED REFUSED TO BE QUESTIONED; WHILE THE OTHER, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, THE TAILHOOK ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT AT THE TIME OF THE 1991 SYMPOSIUM, STATED HE WITHHELD INFORMATION FROM THE NIS DURING HIS FIRST INTERVIEW BECAUSE HE FELT OBLIGATED TO FIRST CLEAR HIS PASSING INFORMATION TO THE NIS WITH THE TAILHOOK ASSOCIATION ATTORNEY.

5. EXHIBITS (5) THROUGH (12) REPORT ALL INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT TO DATE. THIS REPORT SERVES AS THE PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENT FOR ALL INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY.

#### EXHIBITS

- (1) PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY OF (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 11APR92
- (2) PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY OF (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- (3) PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY OF (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 09APR92
- (4) PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY OF (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 11APR92
- (5) NISRA PATUXENT RIVER ROI (INTERIM)/25NOV91
- (6) NISRA PATUXENT RIVER ROI (INTERIM)/26NOV91
- (7) NISRA PATUXENT RIVER ROI (INTERIM)/12DEC91
- (8) NISRA PATUXENT RIVER ROI (INTERIM)/08JAN92
- (9) NISNCR ROI (INTERIM)/21FEB92
- (10) NISNCR ROI (INTERIM)/02MAR92
- (11) NISNCR ROI (INTERIM)/10APR92
- (12) NISNCR ROI (INTERIM)/15APR92

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